



Is It Justifiable for Pastors to Forge Qualifications to Serve in Ministry?

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The call to pastoral ministry is a sacred and honorable pursuit, rooted in a deep commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving the Christian community. Recently, some governments have imposed regulations requiring pastors to hold academic degrees in theology to fulfill their duties. While this requirement aims to ensure a standard of theological education and competence, it has led to unintended consequences. One troubling trend is the emergence of certain pastors, who, also driven by a supposed zeal to preach the Gospel, have resorted to obtaining fraudulent academic credentials. They may believe they are combating efforts to hinder their ministry, but such actions are inherently sinful and contrary to biblical teachings.

The Bible explicitly condemns deceit and dishonesty. In [Proverbs 12:22](#), it is written, *"The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy."* Forging academic qualifications to justify one's calling is a form of deceit that directly contradicts this biblical principle. Engaging in such actions undermines the integrity of the pastoral office and damages the trust that the congregation places in their spiritual leaders. Jesus himself warned against hypocrisy and deceit, stating in [Luke 12:2](#), *"There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known."*

Pastors who face difficulties in meeting educational requirements should confront these challenges in a biblical manner. [James 1:2-4](#) encourages believers to persevere through trials, stating*, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* Instead of resorting to dishonest means, pastors should seek legitimate ways to fulfill their educational requirements and the evangelical tasks or trust in God's provision and guidance as they navigate these challenges.

Additionally, the Bible teaches us to respect and submit to authority, including governmental authority. [Romans 13:1-2](#) instructs, *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."* Thus, pastors should honor these requirements, recognizing them as part of their obedience to God's established order.

It is also essential to recognize that those who lack a genuine calling to ministry, particularly those pursuing it for economic gain, are likely to falter when faced with ongoing difficulties and temptations. Jesus warned about such individuals in [John 10:12-13](#), describing the hired hand who does not genuinely care for the sheep: *"The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."* True pastoral ministry requires a heart dedicated to God and His people, rather than self-serving motives.

As we draw closer to the end times, the Bible warns that many difficulties and trials will come. In [Matthew 24:12-13](#), Jesus said, *"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."* This reminder is crucial for all believers, especially those in pastoral roles. Only those who remain steadfast in their faith and relationship with Christ will be able to endure and overcome the challenges ahead.

It is vital for pastors to ground their ministry in genuine faith and integrity, relying on the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit. An hour of the dominion of darkness is coming and has even arrived, as Jesus mentioned in [Luke 22:53](#), *"But this is your hour — and the dominion of darkness."* During this time, many true preachers have been silenced, and people do not even want to hear the true Gospel.

Moreover, while the closure of churches can pose significant challenges to the spread of the Gospel, it does not necessarily impede the faith of true Christians but makes them stronger in the Lord. The Apostle Paul reminds us in [1 Corinthians 3:16](#), *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"* The true church is not merely a physical building but the collective body of believers. Therefore, even without formal church buildings, the Gospel can continue to thrive through the faithful witness and ministry of individual Christians. Pastors and evangelists with a divine call will continue to spread the Word, not in large gatherings as usual but as guided by the Spirit.

In conclusion, forging qualifications to justify one's calling is a sin, as it violates biblical principles of honesty and integrity. Pastors facing educational requirements should overcome these challenges through legitimate means, trusting in God's guidance. Those without a true calling to ministry will falter under pressure. While the closure of churches may hinder the spread of the Gospel, it does not affect true Christians, if their bodies are already offered as the true temples of the Holy Spirit. The current restrictions highlight the end times and apostasy. Education alone cannot bring knowledge of God; we know God when He reveals Himself to us, not through academic achievements. The apostles, who laid the church's foundation, never had formal education. Today's end-time apostasy has driven these changes.

The offices of the Holy Spirit are not earned through human effort or academic achievement. As Paul writes in [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#), spiritual gifts come solely from the Holy Spirit. Many may call themselves pastors, but that does not mean they are recognized by God. Jesus warns in [Matthew 7:21-23](#) that not everyone who claims to serve Him will enter the kingdom of heaven; only those who do the will of the Father will.

As believers, we must remain steadfast in biblical principles, respecting authority and relying on Christ. Instead of resorting to forgery, let us demonstrate integrity, faithfulness, and the true love of Christ in all our actions.

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